

Regional Service Council Minutes

Region 16

Meeting Date: February 23, 2006

Meeting Location: Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana

Council Members Present: Regional Manager Virginia Combs
Judge Brett Niemeier
Judge Timothy Crowley
Larry Marchino
Juanita Working
Susan Blackburn
Chris Hoehn

Council Members Absent: Judge David Kelly
Steve Cunningham
Julie Weeks
Sheila Bridges

Others in Attendance: Lark Buckman
Judith Harper
Jara Dillingham (with The Villages)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. Indianapolis time) by Regional Manager Virginia Combs. The agenda, the minutes of the January meeting, and the February 14, 2006 Regional Service Council protocol had been mailed to all Council members prior to the meeting. **On a motion by Susan Blackburn, seconded by Judge Niemeier, minutes of the January 26, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.**

1. Mrs. Combs distributed copies of the February 22, 2006 working draft of the Regional Services Council Protocol explaining that additional revisions had been made and that as questions or issues arise it may be necessary to continue to revise the protocol from time to time. Mrs. Combs pointed out the changes and revisions which had been made to pages 3 and 4 regarding the open door policy, to page 5 regarding the frequency of meetings and the standard minutes format, to page 6 regarding additions to the agenda, and to page 7 regarding how documents distributed at the meeting may be requested by the public. A question was asked regarding if Regional Service Council members who were not able to attend a meeting could vote by proxy. Mrs. Combs indicated that she would raise that question.
2. Mrs. Combs then explained that there is a need for a Provider Fair for staff to familiarize themselves with available services in the region. Mrs. Combs asked for input regarding where and when to have the Provider Fair. Options are to have two Provider Fairs at different locations within the region or to have one fair at a central location. After some discussion it was decided that one provider fair at a

central location sometime in April would probably be the best. In trying to work around court days in all the counties it was determined that the best day of the week is probably Friday. Juanita Working volunteered to gather some information regarding possible locations in Princeton for a provider fair.

3. Mrs. Combs distributed copies of the Framework for Child Welfare Service Provisions and also copies of the Child Welfare Team's February 15th PowerPoint presentation. Mrs. Combs talked about our practice principles and explained that we are moving toward strength based, family centered services to empower the families to eventually plan for and deal with issues themselves as they arise. Mrs. Combs explained that our two pilot regions have already been working on this and that representatives of the pilot regions have made visits to Utah to witness and examine this model first hand. She indicated that they were encouraged and impressed with what they saw in Utah. Mrs. Combs further explained that as regions move toward the strength based, family centered model they will need to host community forums to explain to our community partners where we are and where we are going. She indicated that this would be a future project for the Regional Service Council. Judge Niemeier stated that he appreciates the additional staff that local DCS offices are receiving, but he expressed a concern that the move toward more consistency and uniformity across the state would lead to less local control.
4. Mrs. Combs explained that, since the last meeting when service providers were chosen, some providers had been asked and had agreed to offer services to the whole region. She further explained that County Directors had made recommendations regarding allocations of IV-B funds to individual providers and services. She noted that those recommendations had been emailed to Regional Service Council members, but that there had been a revision to Warrick County's recommendation. She distributed copies of the revised Warrick County recommended allocation of funds. Mrs. Combs stated that our contracting process will assure that the same services will be available to all counties in the region. Mrs. Combs responded to a question from Juanita Working regarding the community partners funding explaining that voluntary service cases will end as of September 1, 2006. She further explained that community partnerships were solicited to provide services with this funding for cases that would have been voluntary service cases. She stated that service requests, unsubstantiated reports, and screen outs are examples of situations where these funds may be used. **After a motion by Judge Niemeier to approve the recommended county allocations and a second by Juanita Working the motion passed by unanimous vote.** Mrs. Combs further explained that it is possible that it is possible that a second round of contracting may occur, but that is still unknown at this time. She also stated that there is currently work ongoing to establish service standards for drug screens and to establish child advocacy centers.
5. Mrs. Combs asked Judge Crowley and Judge Niemeier if they had any updates regarding new legislation currently moving through the legislature. They responded indicating that it appears that some of the aspects of the new legislation that had most concerned the judges had been addressed.

6. Chris Hoehn reported that she had learned that a foster mother (from another state) is being recognized by being named the "God Mother" of Royal Caribbean's newest cruise ship. The foster mother will be there to christen the ship and will be given a free cruise each year. Everyone at the meeting was pleased that the important work that foster parents do is being recognized in this way!
7. Mrs. Combs reported that due to a lack of business to conduct she could see no need for a March meeting. There being no objections from the Council, she confirmed that the next meeting will be April 27, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at Haub Steak House, Haubstadt, Indiana. It was noted that by then the region will all be on the same time.

Upon a motion by Chris Hoehn and second by Juanita Working the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m. (8:00 p.m. Indianapolis time).

Virginia L. Combs
Regional Manager, Region 16